

From: [HarborComments](#)
To: [PortlandHarbor](#)
Subject: Willamette River/Portland Harbor cleanup
Date: Thursday, December 06, 2018 12:31:51 PM

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, December 05, 2018 6:07 PM
To: HarborComments <HarborComments@epa.gov>
Subject: Willamette River/Portland Harbor cleanup

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to demand that the EPA reverse its decision to reduce cleanup efforts at the Portland Harbor Superfund site; specifically, regarding benzo[a]pyrene. This pollutant is a carcinogen that has been associated with a number of health risks including cancer, heart disease, respiratory problems, and reproductive issues in addition to many other problems. While the EPA claims that benzo[a]pyrene is less toxic than was originally thought, recent research from other sources may prove contrary to these claims. Additionally, the studies EPA sites for this claim only account for cancer risk, and ignore other health risks associated with this chemical (listed above) that are well documented.

Furthermore, there is no analysis of the toxicity of benzo[a]pyrene in combination with other chemicals at the site, including PAHs, PCBs, dioxins, organic chemicals, and metals. Scientists have demonstrated that low-level exposures and combinations have powerful toxic effects, especially on the young, across a wide range of animals.

These proposed changes--the so-called "Explanation of Significant Differences"--would shrink the final cleanup plan, letting two of the largest polluters, NW Natural and the Port of Portland, off the hook for about \$35 million. Both of these entities, and other polluters, should be held fully accountable for pollution of the Willamette River.

The proposed reduction in cleanup effort would leave more contamination at the site for an indefinite amount of time; even before this proposal, the EPA was already planning to cleanup only 13% of the worst contaminants.

Moreover, the EPA has not yet determined whether this weakened cleanup would uphold water quality standards to protect people, animals, and the environment from dangerous risks. This is not acceptable. EPA should be doing its utmost to clean up Portland Harbor; I demand that you abandon this attempt to lessen cleanup efforts.

Sincerely yours,

(b) (6)

Portland OR 97206